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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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19 January 1968

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Approved For Release 2002/10/22 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010700140001-7

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*North Vietnam: Hanoi has mounted a full-blown effort to publicize its proposal for a cessation of the US bombing.

The campaign stresses Hanoi's willingness to talk with the US at an early date in exchange for a halt in the bombing, and has taken the form of press conferences by North Vietnamese diplomats and increased propaganda support from Communist countries in Europe.

For example, Hanoi's man in Paris, Mai Van Bo, reportedly told an interviewer on 17 January that North Vietnam was prepared to talk about "everything" and that such talks could begin within a few days, once Hanoi decided that the bombings had really stopped.

This interview, however, has not been authenticated by Hanoi--as was his earlier interview on the 16th. The later interview may not in all details, correctly reflect Hanoi's views. As reported, it goes well beyond previous North Vietnamese statements and would be a further indication that the Communists are trying hard to make their offer seem as attractive and reasonable as possible.

In addition to Bo's publicity efforts in Paris, the North Vietnamese consul in Rangoon called a press conference on 18 January to propagandize Trinh's statement. The Communists in Europe also seem to have taken the wraps off and are commenting favorably on the North Vietnamese proposal. Czechoslovakia published a Foreign Ministry declaration of support on the 17th and on the 18th the Soviet press called the Trinh statement a step toward "peaceful settlement of the Vietnam problem." [redacted]

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Cyprus: Turkish officials believe there still are several thousand Greek troops illegally on Cyprus, but Ankara apparently prefers to play the matter down for now.

About 7,000 Greeks have been withdrawn. Approximately 9,500 "illegal" Greek troops were estimated to have been on the island at the time of the withdrawal agreement between Greece and Turkey in early December. The Turks have frequently mentioned a figure of 12,000, but they have not reacted to the Greek claim to have finished the withdrawal.

Turkey has joined Greece in requesting the UN Peace Force on Cyprus to document the withdrawal. The future of the troops still illegally in Cyprus, including an estimated 500 from Turkey, probably will depend more on Turkish negotiations with Cyprus than with Greece, since the remaining Greek troops are serving with the Cypriot National Guard.

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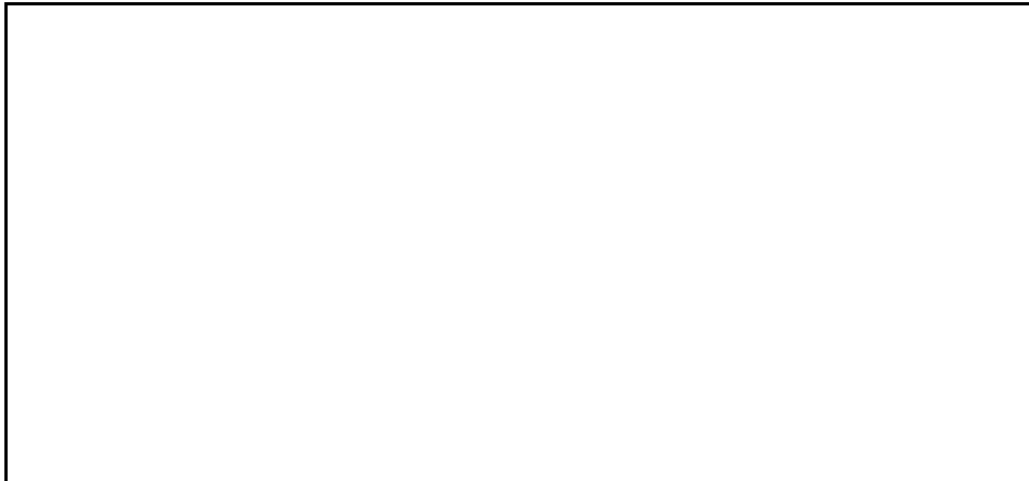
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Yemen: The Arab tripartite committee on peace in Yemen has failed to conciliate the royalists and republicans. The committee asked Nasir and Faysal yesterday to use their good offices to press for a settlement. Each side has insisted on conditions unacceptable to the other, and the committee now feels that only the heads of state can exert effective pressure on the belligerents. Since the Arab states all favor a peaceful end of the war, the withdrawal of the tripartite committee may prove to be shock therapy that could bring both Yemeni groups to the bargaining table.

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Colombia: The ambush of an army patrol in the northern department of Santander on 16 January resulted in the death of three soldiers. Press reports describe the attackers only as "bandits," but the attack took place in an area where the Castro-supported Army of National Liberation has operated for the past three years. These guerrillas have not been active recently, but they may have been spurred by the small-scale success of rival revolutionary groups in northeastern and southern Colombia earlier this month.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 18 January 1968 approved the following national intelligence estimate.

SNIE 11-9-68, "Soviet Interests and Activities in Arab States." [REDACTED]

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